

In the Claims

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled) A method of making a printer cartridge, comprising:

assembling a first cartridge subassembly and a second cartridge subassembly, wherein the first cartridge subassembly includes a first conductive terminal and the second cartridge subassembly includes a second conductive terminal that is normally in electrical contact with the first conductive terminal when the first and second subassemblies are assembled;

~~The method of claim 1, wherein providing the external access comprises:~~

coupling a conductive strip to the first conductive terminal, the first conductive terminal being inaccessible after the step of assembling; and

exposing a portion of the conductive strip externally to the printer cartridge when the first and second subassemblies are assembled.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first cartridge subassembly comprises a developer roller subassembly and wherein coupling the conductive strip to the first conductive terminal comprises attaching the conductive strip to a sensing bar of the developer roller subassembly, wherein the sensing bar is connected to the first conductive terminal.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the conductive strip is formed from one of aluminum, copper or an alloy.

5. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the conductive strip has a thickness of about 2 mils or less.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the conductive strip comprises:

a dead-soft aluminum strip; and

a conductive acrylic adhesive applied to the strip.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the second cartridge subassembly is a toner hopper subassembly ~~of a laser printer cartridge~~.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising coupling the at least first conductive terminal and the at least second conductive terminal to a capacitor type device to generate a signal responsive to a level of toner in the toner hopper subassembly.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, further comprising measuring a continuity between the ~~external access~~ conductive strip and the second conductive terminal.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method of making a printer cartridge, comprising:
attaching a conductive strip on one of a first printer cartridge subassembly or a second printer cartridge subassembly;

assembling the first cartridge subassembly in operative position with the second cartridge subassembly, wherein the first cartridge subassembly includes at least a first conductive terminal and the second cartridge subassembly includes at least a second conductive terminal that normally electrically contacts the at least first conductive terminal ~~when the first and second cartridge subassemblies are assembled~~ after the step of assembling and wherein the at least first conductive terminal is inaccessible and the at least second conductive terminal is accessible ~~when the first and second cartridge subassemblies are assembled~~ after the step of assembling;

wherein the step of assembling further comprises the substep of coupling a first portion of the conductive strip to the at least first conductive terminal ~~when assembling the first and second cartridge subassemblies~~; and

wherein the step of assembling further comprises the substep of exposing a second portion of the conductive strip external to the first and second cartridge subassemblies when assembling the first and second cartridge subassemblies.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein attaching the conductive strip comprises attaching the conductive strip to a sensing bar, wherein the sensing bar is connected to the at least first conductive terminal.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second conductive terminals are located proximate to one end of the first and second printer cartridge assemblies and wherein the step of attaching the conductive strip further comprises the substep attaching the conductive strip proximate to an end of the first or second printer cartridge subassemblies opposite to the one end.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the conductive strip comprises:
a dead-soft aluminum strip; and
a conductive acrylic adhesive applied to the strip.

15. (currently amended) A method of making a printer cartridge, comprising:
attaching a conductive strip to a sensing bar of a developer roller subassembly of the printer cartridge, wherein the sensing bar is electrically connected to at least a first conductive terminal;

assembling the developer roller subassembly in operative position with a toner hopper subassembly to form the printer cartridge, wherein the toner hopper subassembly includes at least a second conductive terminal that normally electrically contacts the at least first conductive terminal ~~when the printer cartridge is assembled~~ after the step of assembling and wherein the at least first conductive terminal is inaccessible after ~~forming the printer cartridge~~ the step of

assembling and the at least second conductive terminal is accessible after ~~forming the printer cartridge~~ the step of assembling; and

exposing a portion of the conductive strip after forming the printer cartridge.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising measuring an electrical continuity between the at least first conductive terminal and the at least second conductive terminal by

measuring electrical continuity between the conductive strip and the at least second conductive terminal.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein attaching the conductive strip to the sensing bar comprises attaching with a conductive adhesive.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) ~~The printer cartridge of claim 18,~~ A printer cartridge,
comprising:

a first cartridge subassembly;

a second cartridge subassembly attached to the first cartridge subassembly, wherein the first cartridge subassembly includes a first conductive terminal and the second cartridge subassembly includes a second conductive terminal that is normally in electrical contact with the first conductive terminal when the first and second subassemblies are attached; and

an external access member coupled to the first conductive terminal, the first conductive terminal being inaccessible when the first cartridge subassembly is attached to the second cartridge subassembly,

wherein the external access member comprises a conductive strip coupled to the first conductive terminal and wherein the conductive strip includes a portion exposed externally to the printer cartridge when the first and second subassemblies are attached.

20. (currently amended) The printer cartridge of claim ~~18~~ 19, wherein the conductive strip has a thickness of about 2 mils or less.

21. (currently amended) The printer cartridge of claim ~~18~~ 19, wherein the conductive strip comprises:

a dead-soft aluminum strip; and

a conductive acrylic applied to the strip.

22. (currently amended) The printer cartridge of claim ~~18~~ 19, further comprising a capacitor ~~type~~ device coupled to the first conductive terminal and the second conductive terminal to provide a signal responsive to a level of toner in the printer cartridge.